REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Summary of Office Action

Claims 29, 30, 33-35, 39, 40 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent Application Publication no. 2005/0108484 of Park ("Park"). Claims 31, 32, 44, 45 and 47-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Park in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication no. 2003/0046369 of Sim et al. (" Sim"). The remaining claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Park in view of one or more other references.

Summary of Amendments

Claims 1-28 were previously canceled. In this amendment, claims 29, 31, 39, 40, 44 and 48 have been amended. Claim 55 is newly added. No new matter has been added.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300 to schedule a telephone interview, in the event the Examiner does not find the present application to be allowable after considering this response.

Discussion of Rejections

Claim 29

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Claim 29 as amended recites:

> 29.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:
>   **using a storage system management application to manage**
> **information relating to operation of a plurality of storage servers;**
>   using a first agent **processing system** which is **separate from the**
> **storage system management application** to scan a first subset of a
> hierarchical structure of data maintained by a storage server of the
> plurality of storage servers, to collect information about the first subset;
>   using a second agent **processing system** which is **separate from the**
> **storage system management application** to scan a second subset of the
> hierarchical structure of data maintained by the storage server, to collect
> information about the second subset;
>   storing the information about the first subset and the information
> about the second subset in a physical storage facility which is accessible
> by the storage system management application; and
>   **using the storage system management application** to access the
> physical storage facility and **to generate an output to a user which is**
> **indicative of the information about the first subset and the information**
> **about the second subset.** (Emphasis added.)

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Park. However, Park

does not disclose or suggest the use of any agent processing system to scan and collect

information about a subset of a hierarchical structure of data maintained by a storage

server of a plurality of storage servers, where the agent processing system is separate

from a storage system management application that manages information relating to

operation of a plurality of storage servers. In particular, Park does not disclose or

suggest any agent *processing system*. The Examiner analogizes the "threads" mentioned

in Park to the first and second agents of claim 29 (prior to this amendment). However, a

thread is merely a subset of a process or program (Park, paragraph [0039]); it is not a

processing system.

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Also, Park does not disclose or suggest any *storage system management application that manages information relating to operation of a plurality of storage servers*, nor does Park disclose or suggest using such a storage system management application (which is separate from the agents) *to generate an output to a user which is indicative of the information about first and second subsets of the hierarchical structure of data maintained by the storage server.*

For at least these reasons, therefore, claim 29 and all claims which depend on it are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 39

Claim 39 as amended recites:

> 39. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
> a storage server to maintain a volume of data and to maintain a directory structure of the volume;
> a first agent **processing system** coupled to the storage server, to scan a first subset of the directory structure of the volume to collect information about the first subset;
> a second agent **processing system** coupled to the storage server, to scan a second subset of the directory structure of the volume to collect information about the second subset; and
> a database server coupled to the first agent processing system and the second agent processing system, to store the information about the first subset and the information about the second subset in a physical storage facility. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 39 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Park. However, Park does not disclose or suggest the use of any agent *processing system* to scan and collect

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information about a subset of a directory structure of a volume maintained by a storage

server. For at least this reason, therefore, claim 39 and all claims which depend on it are

believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 48

Claim 48 as amended recites:

48.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:
        a storage server to maintain a volume of data, including to
maintain a directory structure of the volume of data;
        a first agent **processing system** which uses a first file system, to
scan a first subset of the directory structure of the volume to collect
information about the first subset;
        a second agent **processing system** which uses a second file system
different from the first file system, to scan a second subset of the directory
structure of the volume to collect information about the second subset;
        a storage facility coupled to the first agent processing system and
the second agent processing system, to store the information about the
first subset and the information about the second subset in the same
format; and
        a **management application** coupled to the storage server and the
first and second agent processing systems, **to control the first and second
agent processing systems.** (Emphasis added.)

Claim 48 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Park in view of Sim.

However, neither Park nor Sim discloses or suggests the use of any agent *processing*

system to scan and collect information about a subset of a directory structure of a

volume maintained by a storage server. Further, neither Park nor Sim discloses or

suggests a management applications that controls such an agent processing system. For

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at least this reason, therefore, claim 48 and all claims which depend on it are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Applicants have not necessarily discussed here every reason why every pending independent claim is patentable over the cited art; nonetheless, Applicants are not waiving any argument regarding any such reason or reasons. Applicants reserve the right to raise any such additional argument(s) during the future prosecution of this application, if Applicants deem it necessary or appropriate to do so.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.
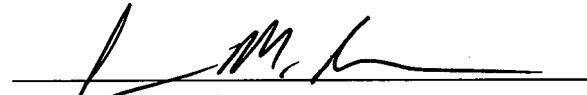
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

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If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit

account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: __May 17, 2007__

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